

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1844

To amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to direct a study of the opportunities for enhanced water based recreation and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 1996

Mr. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to direct a study of the opportunities for enhanced water based recreation and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Recreation
5 Lakes Study Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 The Congress finds that the Federal Government,
8 under the authority of the Reclamation Act and other stat-
9 utes, has developed man-made lakes and reservoirs that

1 have become a powerful magnet for diverse recreational
 2 activities and that such activities contribute to the well-
 3 being of families and individuals and the economic viability
 4 of local communities. The Congress further finds that in
 5 order to further the purposes of the Land and Water Con-
 6 servation Fund, the President should appoint an advisory
 7 commission to review the current and anticipated demand
 8 for recreational opportunities at federally-managed man-
 9 made lakes and reservoirs through creative partnerships
 10 involving Federal, State, and local governments and the
 11 private sector and to develop alternatives for enhanced
 12 recreational use of such facilities.

13 **SEC. 3. COMMISSION.**

14 The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965
 15 (Public Law 88–578, 78 Stat. 897), as amended, is fur-
 16 ther amended by adding the following new section 13:

17 “SEC. 13. (a) The President shall appoint an advisory
 18 commission to review the opportunities for enhanced op-
 19 portunities for water based recreation which shall submit
 20 a report to the President and to the Committee on Energy
 21 and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee
 22 on Resources of the House of Representatives within one
 23 year from the date of enactment of this section.

24 “(b) The members of the Commission shall include—

1 (1) the Secretary of the Interior, or his des-
2 ignee;

3 (2) the Secretary of the Army, or his designee;

4 (3) the Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Au-
5 thority, or his designee;

6 (4) the Secretary of Agriculture, or his des-
7 ignee;

8 (5) a person nominated by the National Gov-
9 ernor's Association; and

10 (6) four persons familiar with the recreation
11 and tourism industry, at least one of whom shall be
12 familiar with the economics and financing of recre-
13 ation related infrastructure.

14 “(c) The President shall appoint one member to serve
15 as Chairman. Any vacancy on the Commission shall be
16 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
17 Members of the Commission shall serve without compensa-
18 tion but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and
19 other necessary expenses incurred by them in the perform-
20 ance of their duties. The Secretary of the Interior shall
21 provide all financial, administrative, and staffing require-
22 ments for the Commission, including office space, furnish-
23 ings, and equipment. The heads of other Federal agencies
24 are authorized, at the request of the Commission, to pro-
25 vide such information or personnel, to the extent per-

mitted by law and within the limits of available funds, to the Commission as may be useful to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(d) The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as it deems advisable: *Provided*, That, to the maximum extent possible, the Commission shall use existing data and research. The Commission is authorized to use the United States mail in the same manner and upon the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

“(e) The report shall review the extent of water related recreation at Federal man-made lakes and reservoirs and shall develop alternatives to enhance the opportunities for such use by the public. In developing the report, the Commission shall—

(1) review the extent to which recreation components identified in specific authorizations associated with individual Federal man-made lakes and reservoirs have been accomplished;

(2) evaluate the feasibility of enhancing recreation opportunities at federally-managed lakes and reservoirs under existing statutes;

(3) consider legislative changes that would enhance recreation opportunities consistent with and

1 subject to the achievement of the authorized pur-
2 poses of Federal water projects; and

3 (4) make recommendations on alternatives for
4 enhanced recreation opportunities including, but not
5 limited to, the establishment of a National Recre-
6 ation Lake System under which specific lakes would
7 receive national designation and which would be
8 managed through innovative partnership-based
9 agreements between Federal agencies, State and
10 local units of government, and the private sector.
11 Any such alternatives shall be consistent with and
12 subject to the authorized purposes for any man-
13 made lakes and reservoirs and shall emphasize pri-
14 vate sector initiatives in concert with State and local
15 units of government.”.

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